

A friend has this day suggested to me, that expressions are used in certain parts of this Treatise, which some persons consider as speaking too confidently respecting Physical Phenomena, as if they *could not* have been otherwise disposed, had such been the will of the Creator; or which seem to imply that His method of proceeding under former systems, *must of necessity* have been the same as those which we witness in the growth of living species of Animals and Vegetables, and in the laws that now regulate the material World. I am not conscious of having used any such expressions, but lest I should have inadvertently done so, I gladly take this opportunity of stating, that I accord to the fullest extent with such persons respecting the Omnipotence of the Creator, and admit with them, that had it been his pleasure, all things that exist might have been the immediate results of an Almighty *fiat*. My only endeavour has been to shew, that as far as we may venture to argue on such a subject, from the analogies afforded by the organic and inorganic parts of the world around us, the proofs of design which we discover in the fossil relics of former systems of Creation, differ in no respect from those drawn by Paley and all writers on Physico Theology, from the structure of living organic bodies, and the other actual phenomena of the natural World, in evidence of the Wisdom and Power, and Goodness of the Deity.

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